

I/WE CLAIM:

1. A bandwidth meter for measuring the bandwidth of a spectrum of light emitted from a laser input to the bandwidth meter comprising:

an optical bandwidth monitor providing a first output representative of a first  
5 parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the light emitted from the laser  
and a second output representative of a second parameter which is indicative of the  
bandwidth of the light emitted from the laser; and,

an actual bandwidth calculation apparatus utilizing the first output and the  
second output as part of a multivariable equation employing predetermined  
10 calibration variables specific to the optical bandwidth monitor, to calculate an actual  
bandwidth parameter.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a spectrum full width at some percent of  
15 the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser  
("FWXM").

3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a width between two points on the  
20 spectrum defining a content of the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the  
energy of the full spectrum of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX").

4. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at  
25 least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a  
width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy  
of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is  
representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  
 $X' \neq X''$ .

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5. The apparatus of claim 2 further comprising:



the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is  
5 representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X''$ .

6. The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at  
10 least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X''$ .

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7. The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

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8. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

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9. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

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10. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising:



the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated actual BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

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11. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated actual BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
10  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

12. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

15 where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

13. A bandwidth meter for measuring the bandwidth of a spectrum of light emitted  
from a laser input to the bandwidth meter comprising:

20 an optical bandwidth monitor providing a first output representative of a first  
spectrum width measurement as measured by the optical bandwidth monitor and a  
second spectrum width measurement measured by the optical bandwidth monitor;  
and,

an actual bandwidth calculation apparatus utilizing the first output and the  
25 second output as part of a multivariable equation employing predetermined  
calibration variables specific to the optical bandwidth monitor, to calculate an actual  
bandwidth parameter.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:



the actual bandwidth parameter is a spectrum full width at some percent of the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("FWXM").

5 15. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX").

10 16. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX") and the second output is  
15 representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X''$ .

17. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at  
20 least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X''$ .

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18. The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy  
30 of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX") and the second output is



representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X''$ .

19. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:

5       the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

20. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:

10       the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

21. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:

15       the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

22. The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:

20       the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated actual BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX''.

25       23. The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated actual BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX''.

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24. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:



the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated actual BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  $w_2$  is the second measured output of FWX''M or EX'''.

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25. A photolithography light source comprising:

a bandwidth meter for measuring the bandwidth of a spectrum of light emitted from a laser input to the bandwidth meter comprising:

10 an optical bandwidth monitor providing a first output representative of a first parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the light emitted from the laser and a second output representative of a second parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the light emitted from the laser; and,

15 an actual bandwidth calculation apparatus utilizing the first output and the second output as part of a multivariable equation employing predetermined calibration variables specific to the optical bandwidth monitor, to calculate an actual bandwidth parameter.

26. The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising:

20 the actual bandwidth parameter is a spectrum full width at some percent of the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("FWXM").

27. The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising:

25 the actual bandwidth parameter is a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX").

28. The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising:

30 the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy



of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

5 29. The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is  
10 representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

30. The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at  
15 least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

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31. The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

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32. The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

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33. The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising:



the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

5 34. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

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35. The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

15 where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

36. The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

20 where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

37. A photolithography light source comprising:

25 a bandwidth meter for measuring the bandwidth of a spectrum of light emitted from a laser input to the bandwidth meter comprising:

an optical bandwidth monitor providing a first output representative of a first spectrum width measurement as measured by the bandwidth monitor and a second spectrum width measurement measured by the optical bandwidth monitor; and,

30 an actual bandwidth calculation apparatus utilizing the first output and the second output as part of a multivariable equation employing predetermined



calibration variables specific to the optical bandwidth monitor, to calculate an actual bandwidth parameter.

38. The apparatus of claim 37 further comprising:

5       the actual bandwidth parameter is a spectrum full width at some percent of the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("FWXM").

39. The apparatus of claim 37, further comprising:

10       the actual bandwidth parameter is a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX").

40. The apparatus of claim 37 further comprising:

15       the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  
20     $X' \neq X'''$ .

41. The apparatus of claim 38 further comprising:

      the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a  
25    width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  
       $X' \neq X'''$ .

30    42. The apparatus of claim 39 further comprising:



the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is  
5 representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X''$ .

43. The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the  
10 value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

44. The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the  
15 value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

45. The apparatus of claim 42, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the  
20 value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

46. The apparatus of claim 43, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
25 estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX''.

47. The apparatus of claim 44, further comprising:

30 the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,



where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

48. The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:

5 the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

$$\text{estimated BW parameter} = K * w_1 + L * w_2 + M,$$

where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

10 49. A photolithography tool comprising:

a laser light source comprising:

a bandwidth meter for measuring the bandwidth of a spectrum of light emitted from a laser input to the bandwidth meter comprising:

15 an optical bandwidth monitor providing a first output representative of a first parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the light emitted from the laser and a second output representative of a second parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the light emitted from the laser; and,

20 an actual bandwidth calculation apparatus utilizing the first output and the second output as part of a multivariable equation employing predetermined calibration variables specific to the optical bandwidth monitor, to calculate an actual bandwidth parameter.

50. The apparatus of claim 49 further comprising:

25 the actual bandwidth parameter is a spectrum full width at some percent of the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("FWXM").

51. The apparatus of claim 49, further comprising:

30 the actual bandwidth parameter is a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX").



52. The apparatus of claim 49 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X''$ .

53. The apparatus of claim 50 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X''$ .

54. The apparatus of claim 51 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X''$ .

55. The apparatus of claim 52, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

56. The apparatus of claim 53, further comprising:



the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

5 57. The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

10 58. The apparatus of claim 55, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

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59. The apparatus of claim 56, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
20  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

60. The apparatus of claim 57, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

25 where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

61. A photolithography light source comprising:

a bandwidth meter for measuring the bandwidth of a spectrum of light  
30 emitted from a laser input to the bandwidth meter comprising:



an optical bandwidth monitor providing a first output representative of a first spectrum width measurement as measured by the optical bandwidth detector and a second spectrum width measurement measured by the optical bandwidth detector; and,

5        an actual bandwidth calculation apparatus utilizing the first output and the second output as part of a multivariable equation employing predetermined calibration variables specific to the optical bandwidth monitor, to calculate an actual bandwidth parameter.

10    62. The apparatus of claim 61 further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a spectrum full width at some percent of the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("FWXM").

15    63. The apparatus of claim 61, further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX").

20    64. The apparatus of claim 61 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is  
25    representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X''$ .

65. The apparatus of claim 62 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at  
30    least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy



of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

5 66. The apparatus of claim 63 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is  
10 representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

67. The apparatus of claim 64, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the  
15 value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

68. The apparatus of claim 65, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the  
20 value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

69. The apparatus of claim 66, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the  
25 value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

70. The apparatus of claim 67, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
30 estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,



where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

71. The apparatus of claim 68, further comprising:

5       the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

10   72. The apparatus of claim 69, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

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73. A bandwidth meter for measuring the bandwidth of a spectrum of light emitted from a laser input to the bandwidth meter comprising:

an optical bandwidth monitoring means for providing a first output representative of a first parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the light  
20 emitted from the laser and a second output representative of a second parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the light emitted from the laser; and,

an actual bandwidth calculation means, utilizing the first output and the second output as part of a multivariable equation employing predetermined calibration variables specific to the optical bandwidth monitoring means, for  
25 calculating an actual bandwidth parameter.

74. The apparatus of claim 73 further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a spectrum full width at some percent of the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser  
30 ("FWXM").



75. The apparatus of claim 73, further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX").

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76. The apparatus of claim 73 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX''', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

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77. The apparatus of claim 74 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX''', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

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78. The apparatus of claim 77 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX''', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

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79. The apparatus of claim 76, further comprising:

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the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

5     80. The apparatus of claim 77, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

10    81. The apparatus of claim 78, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

15    82. The apparatus of claim 79, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated actual BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

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83. The apparatus of claim 80, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated actual BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
25     $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

84. The apparatus of claim 81, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
30    where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.



85. A bandwidth meter for measuring the bandwidth of a spectrum of light emitted from a laser input to the bandwidth meter comprising:

an optical bandwidth monitoring means for providing a first output  
5 representative of a first spectrum width measurement as measured by the bandwidth detector and a second spectrum width measurement measured by the optical bandwidth detection means; and,

an actual bandwidth calculation means, utilizing the first output and the second output as part of a multivariable linear equation employing predetermined  
10 calibration variables specific to the optical bandwidth monitoring means, for calculating calculate an actual bandwidth parameter.

86. The apparatus of claim 85 further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a spectrum full width at some percent of  
15 the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("FWXM").

87. The apparatus of claim 85, further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a width between two points on the  
20 spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX").

88. The apparatus of claim 85 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is  
25 representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX''', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

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89. The apparatus of claim 86 further comprising:



the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

90. The apparatus of claim 87 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

91. The apparatus of claim 88, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

92. The apparatus of claim 89, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

93. The apparatus of claim 90, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

94. The apparatus of claim 91, further comprising:



the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated actual BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

5

95. The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated actual BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
10  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

96. The apparatus of claim 93, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated actual BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

15 where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output of FWX''M or EX'''.

97. A photolithography light source comprising:

a bandwidth meter means for measuring the bandwidth of a spectrum of light  
20 emitted from a laser input to the bandwidth meter comprising:

an optical bandwidth monitoring means for providing a first output  
representative of a first parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the  
light emitted from the laser a second output representative of a second  
parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the light emitted from the  
25 laser; and,

an actual bandwidth calculation means, utilizing the first output and  
the second output as part of a multivariable equation employing  
predetermined calibration variables specific to the optical bandwidth  
monitoring means, for calculating an actual bandwidth parameter.

30

98. The apparatus of claim 97 further comprising:



the actual bandwidth parameter is a spectrum full width at some percent of the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("FWXM").

5 99. The apparatus of claim 97, further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX").

10 100. The apparatus of claim 97 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX")

15 and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

101. The apparatus of claim 98 further comprising:

20 the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX")

and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

25

102. The apparatus of claim 99 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some  
30 percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX")



and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

103. The apparatus of claim 100, further comprising:

5       the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

104. The apparatus of claim 101, further comprising:

10       the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

105. The apparatus of claim 102, further comprising:

15       the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

106. The apparatus of claim 103, further comprising:

20       the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

25       107. The apparatus of claim 104, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

30

108. The apparatus of claim 105, further comprising:



the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

5

109. A photolithography light source comprising:

a bandwidth meter means for measuring the bandwidth of a spectrum of light emitted from a laser input to the bandwidth meter comprising:

an optical bandwidth monitoring means for providing a first output  
10 representative of a first spectrum width measurement as measured by the bandwidth detector and a second spectrum width measurement measured by the optical bandwidth detection means; and,

an actual bandwidth calculation means, utilizing the first output and the second output as part of a multivariable equation employing predetermined  
15 calibration variables specific to the optical bandwidth monitoring means, for calculating an actual bandwidth parameter.

110. The apparatus of claim 109 further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a spectrum full width at some percent of  
20 the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("FWXM").

111. The apparatus of claim 109, further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a width between two points on the  
25 spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX").

112. The apparatus of claim 109 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is  
30 representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some



percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX''', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

5 113. The apparatus of claim 110 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'")  
10 and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX''', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

114. The apparatus of claim 111 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is  
15 representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX''', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

20

115. The apparatus of claim 112, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

25

116. The apparatus of claim 113, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

30

117. The apparatus of claim 114, further comprising:



the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

5 118. The apparatus of claim 115, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
10  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

119. The apparatus of claim 116, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
15  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

120. The apparatus of claim 117, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

20 where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

121. A photolithography tool comprising:

a laser light source comprising:

25 a bandwidth meter means for measuring the bandwidth of a spectrum of light  
emitted from a laser input to the bandwidth meter comprising:

an optical bandwidth monitoring means for providing a first output  
representative of a first parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the  
light emitted from the laser and a second output representative of a second  
30 parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the light emitted from the  
laser; and,



an actual bandwidth calculation means, utilizing the first output and the second output as part of a multivariable linear equation employing predetermined calibration variables specific to the optical bandwidth monitoring means, for calculating an actual bandwidth parameter.

5

122. The apparatus of claim 121 further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a spectrum full width at some percent of the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("FWXM").

10

123. The apparatus of claim 121, further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX").

15

124. The apparatus of claim 121 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X''$ .

20

125. The apparatus of claim 122 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X''$ .

30



126. The apparatus of claim 123 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX''', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

127. The apparatus of claim 124, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

128. The apparatus of claim 125, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

129. The apparatus of claim 126, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

130. The apparatus of claim 127, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

131. The apparatus of claim 128, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:



estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

5 132. The apparatus of claim 139, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:

estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,

where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

10

133. A photolithography light source comprising:

a bandwidth meter means for measuring the bandwidth of a spectrum of light  
emitted from a laser input to the bandwidth meter comprising:

15 an optical bandwidth monitoring means providing a first output  
representative of a first spectrum width measurement as measured by the optical  
bandwidth monitoring means and a second spectrum width measurement measured  
by the optical bandwidth monitoring means; and,

an actual bandwidth calculation means, utilizing the first output and the  
second output as part of a multivariable linear equation employing predetermined  
20 calibration variables specific to the optical bandwidth monitoring means, for  
calculating an actual bandwidth parameter.

134. The apparatus of claim 133 further comprising:

25 the actual bandwidth parameter is a spectrum full width at some percent of  
the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the laser  
("FWXM").

135. The apparatus of claim 133, further comprising:

30 the actual bandwidth parameter is a width between two points on the  
spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of the  
spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX").



136. The apparatus of claim 133 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

137. The apparatus of claim 134 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

138. The apparatus of claim 135 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitoring means is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the laser ("EX") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

139. The apparatus of claim 136, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

140. The apparatus of claim 137, further comprising:



the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

5 141. The apparatus of claim 138, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

10 142. The apparatus of claim 139, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

15

143. The apparatus of claim 140, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
20  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

144. The apparatus of claim 141, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
25 where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

145. A method for measuring the bandwidth of a spectrum of light emitted from a laser input to the bandwidth meter comprising:

30 utilizing an optical bandwidth monitor, providing a first output representative of a first parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the light emitted from the



laser and a second output representative of a second parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the light emitted from the laser; and,

in an actual bandwidth calculation apparatus, utilizing the first output and the second output as part of a multivariable linear equation employing predetermined calibration variables specific to the optical bandwidth monitor, calculating an actual bandwidth parameter.

146. A bandwidth meter for measuring the bandwidth of a spectrum of light emitted from a narrow band light source input to the bandwidth meter comprising:

an optical bandwidth monitor providing a first output representative of a first parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the light emitted from the light source and a second output representative of a second parameter which is indicative of the bandwidth of the light emitted from the light source; and,

an actual bandwidth calculation apparatus utilizing the first output and the second output as part of a multivariable equation employing predetermined calibration variables specific to the optical bandwidth monitor, to calculate an actual bandwidth parameter.

147. The apparatus of claim 146 further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a spectrum full width at some percent of the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the light source ("FWXM").

148. The apparatus of claim 146, further comprising:

the actual bandwidth parameter is a width between two points on the spectrum defining a content of the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of the spectrum of light emitted from the light source ("EX").

149. The apparatus of claim 146 further comprising:



the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the light source ("EX'") and the second  
5 output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

150. The apparatus of claim 147 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at  
10 least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of light emitted from the light source ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

15

151. The apparatus of claim 148 further comprising:

the bandwidth monitor is an etalon and the first output is representative of at least one of a width of a fringe of an optical output of the etalon at FWXM or a width between two points on the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy  
20 of the full spectrum of light emitted from the light source ("EX'") and the second output is representative of at least one of a second FWX''M or EX'', where  $X \neq X''$  and  $X' \neq X'''$ .

152. The apparatus of claim 149, further comprising:

25 the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

153. The apparatus of claim 150, further comprising:



the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

5 154. The apparatus of claim 151, further comprising:

the precomputed calibration variables are derived from a measurement of the value of the actual bandwidth parameter utilizing a trusted standard, correlated to the occurrence of the first and second outputs for a calibration spectrum.

10 155. The apparatus of claim 152, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated actual BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

15

156. The apparatus of claim 153, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated actual BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
20  $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

157. The apparatus of claim 154, further comprising:

the value of the actual bandwidth parameter is calculated from the equation:  
estimated BW parameter =  $K \cdot w_1 + L \cdot w_2 + M$ ,  
25 where  $w_1$  = the first measured output representative of FWXM or EX' and  
 $w_2$  is the second measured output representative of FWX''M or EX'''.

158. A bandwidth meter comprising:

an optically dispersive instrument, dispersing the energy comprising the  
30 output of an light source into a spatial or temporal domain according to the  
wavelength distribution of the energy of the light source;



a detector, recording, respectively, the spatial or temporal variation of wavelength distribution of the energy and providing an output signal based upon the recorded spatial or temporal variation;

5 a first calculation apparatus, calculating the width of the wavelength distribution of the energy, respectively, in the space or time domain, based upon, respectively, the spatial or temporal variation of the wavelength distribution of the energy recorded by the detector, and converting, respectively, the spatial or temporal distribution into the wavelength domain according to the optical properties of the dispersive instrument; and

10 a second calculation apparatus, utilizing at least one width of the wavelength distribution of the energy in the wavelength domain, calculated by the first calculation apparatus, by applying the at least one width as an argument of a multivariable equation having predetermined calibration variables specific to the optical source, the dispersive instrument, the detector, and the at least one width  
15 taken as an argument.

159. The apparatus of claim 158 further comprising:

the first calculation apparatus and the second calculation apparatus are the same calculation apparatus.

20

160. The apparatus of claim 158 further comprising:

the at least one width is at least two widths selected from the group comprising a spectrum full width at some percent of the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the light source ("FWXM") and  
25 ("FWX'M"), and a width between two points on the spectrum defining a content of the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of the spectrum of light emitted from the light source ("EX'' ") and ("EX''' "), where  $X \neq X'$  and  $X'' \neq X'''$ .

30 161. The apparatus of claim 159 further comprising:



the at least one width is at least two widths selected from the group comprising a spectrum full width at some percent of the maximum within the full width of the spectrum of light emitted from the light source ("FWXM") and ("FWX'M"), and a width between two points on the spectrum defining a content of the spectrum enclosing some percentage of the energy of the full spectrum of the spectrum of light emitted from the light source ("EX'' ") or ("EX''' "), where  $X \neq X'$  and  $X'' \neq X'''$ .

162. The apparatus of claim 158 further comprising:

10        wherein the multivariable equation is evaluated to calculate an actual bandwidth parameter descriptive of the spectral distribution of the energy output by the light source selected from the group FWX\*M, EX\*\*.

163. The apparatus of claim 159 further comprising:

15        wherein the multivariable equation is evaluated to calculate an actual bandwidth parameter descriptive of the spectral distribution of the energy output by the light source selected from the group FWX\*M, EX\*\*.

164. The apparatus of claim 160 further comprising:

20        wherein the multivariable equation is evaluated to calculate an actual bandwidth parameter descriptive of the spectral distribution of the energy output by the light source selected from the group FWX\*M, EX\*\*, wherein  $X^*$  may equal either X or  $X'$  and  $X^{**}$  may equal either  $X''$  or  $X'''$ .

25        162. The apparatus of claim 158 further comprising:

          wherein the multivariable equation is evaluated to calculate an actual bandwidth parameter descriptive of the spectral distribution of the energy output by the light source selected from the group FWX\*M, EX\*\*, wherein  $X^*$  may equal either X or  $X'$  and  $X^{**}$  may equal either  $X''$  or  $X'''$ .

30